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# Easter Blessings





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# Easter Blessings

by

Franklin Pierce Carrigan

Lettered by Oswald Cooper



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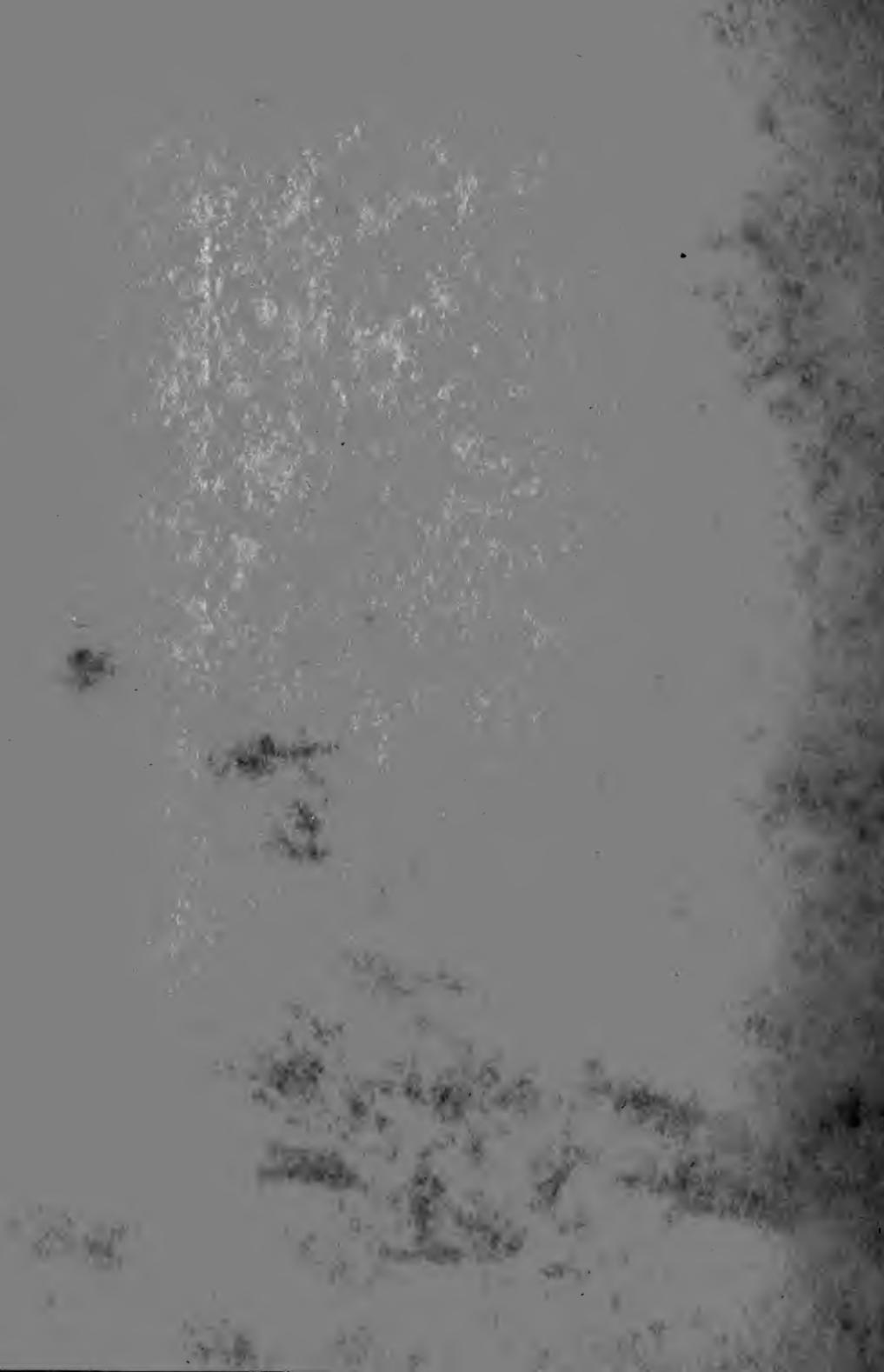
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*CONTENTS*

Dawn	7
Easter Morning	9
My Gift of Lilies	11
The Divine Call	13
Sundown	15
Easter Evening	17
Sunny Days	19
God Bless Thee, Dear	21
The Passing On	23
The Aspen Tree	25
Predestination	27
Behold the Man	29
The Assumption Lily	31
Night and Morn	33



## Dawn

Look up to where the hills  
are flushed  
With dawn's red pencilings  
Look up to where an angel goes  
On silver-flashing wings;  
Look up to where the lark of morn  
Is soaring whilst he sings.

Look up! the clouds of yesterday  
Have vanished with the night;  
Like some sweet dream that  
follows toil.

The present greets the sight;  
Look up! the dawn of dawns has come  
In majesty and might.

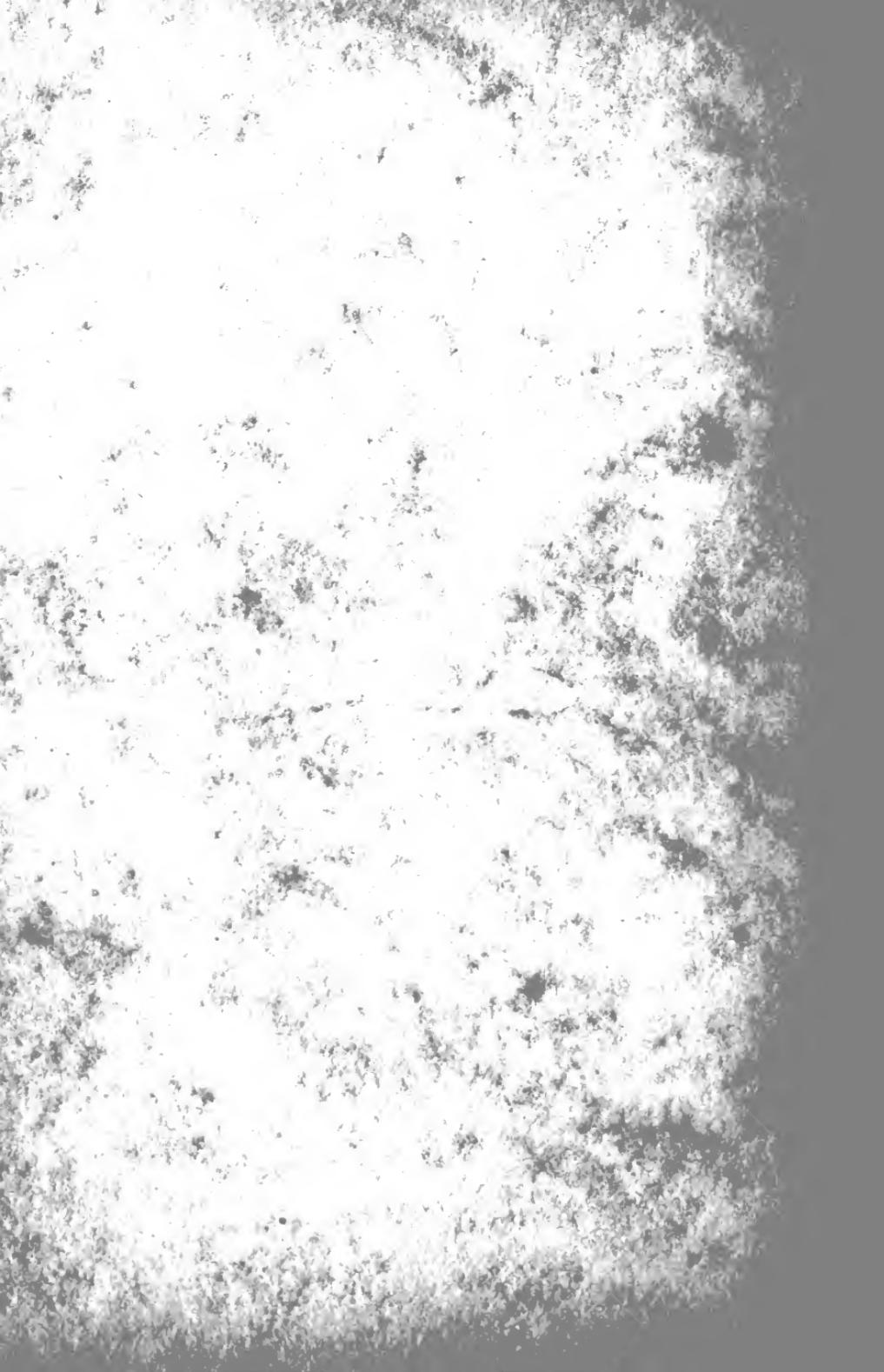


## Easter Morning

The bells in the steeples are  
sending Glad messages out on the air;  
For the night is ended forever,  
And the day breaks everywhere:  
O night that was long and lonely!  
O day that will know no care!

Above the vibrant bell-music  
The perfumes of flowers rise—  
The incense from nature's green altars,  
Ascending like truth to the skies:  
O incense sweet and prayer-breathing  
From hearts that adore and are  
wise!

O hearts of the world that are many  
As stars in the heavens above!  
Christ wants you, and needs you,  
and seeks you  
In charity, pity and love:  
O hearts of the world He forgives you,  
And sends you his peace-bearing  
dove!



## My Gift of Lilies.

I gathered the lilies from hillside and  
vale,  
The beautiful lilies of Christ;  
And thought of the time when the  
angel of God  
With the Virgin held holiest tryst—  
The time in the mystical long ago  
That is olden and far away,  
But comes to all with its memoried  
charm  
To gladden the Easter Day.

I send you the beautiful lilies of  
Christ,  
The lilies of solace and light;  
And may their white chalices breathe  
you their peace  
At morning, at noontime, and night;  
And sift their sweet anther-dust over  
your dreams,  
To steep them in beauty & shine—  
I send you the beautiful lilies of  
Christ  
The messengers of the Divine.



## The Divine Call

I AM the Resurrection and the Life!  
The bread and water and the  
truth ye seek;  
I shall not give denial to thy wants,  
Nor be unmindful of thy many needs.  
The wheat and corn and every  
growing thing—  
Yea, e'en a thing so lowly as the grass—  
Are part of that sweet food I offer thee:  
I am the Resurrection and the Life!

Come unto me, my children whom  
I love—  
Be not afraid that I shall turn from ye;  
My love is vast, my arms will fold ye  
tight,  
My kiss will cleanse thy being of unrest.  
I dwelt amongst ye, and I know full well  
The conflict and the strife that is thy lot;  
Through all the days, and nights, and  
years I call,  
Come unto me, my children whom I love!



## Sundown

The sunset, like a smouldering  
forge  
In deepening shadows glows,  
Upon the fields the evening star  
Its lambent splendor throws,  
And now the lovely Easter Day  
Is sinking to repose.

The mellow, deep-toned angelus  
Is pealing far away;  
Come let us wander hand in hand  
Out in the dying day:  
The love that lives within our hearts  
Will teach us how to pray.

'Tis just a mile across the hills  
Unto the Gothic fane,  
That grandly lifts its spire of faith  
Above the misted main.  
There 'neath the elms the blessed  
dead  
Through toilless years have lain.



## Easter Evening

The music of the organ steals  
Adown the aisles in mellow peals.  
The anthem from the choir floats  
From many silver-fluted throats.  
'Twere if a stream went murmuring by  
And birds were carolling on high,  
Whilst rose leaves floated through the air,  
And shed their redolence of prayer.

The homeward path winds dusk between  
The wild-thorn hedges budding green,  
Then o'er the star-bathed fields it goes,  
Past orchards white with blossoms' snows.  
We do not speak—the silence holds  
A meaning that no speech unfolds:  
We merely clasp each other's hand,  
That heart and heart may understand.

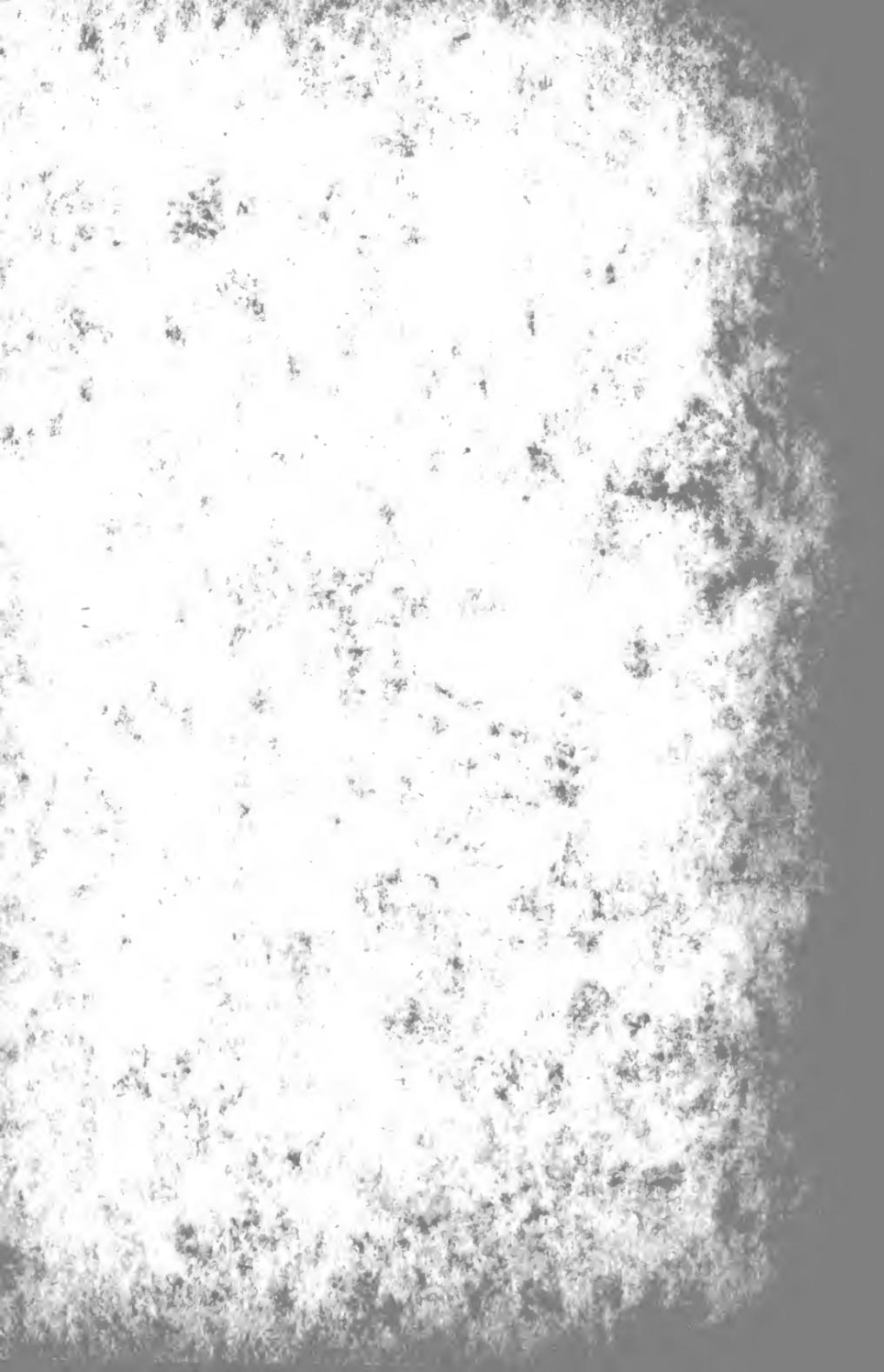
O happy days of Eastertide!  
With us forevermore abide,  
And fill with kindness and cheer  
The hearts of those who doubt & fear.  
Thou art the sun-bathed, lilied shrine  
Of faith matured in love divine,  
The radiant portals open wide—  
O happy day of Eastertide!



## Sunny Days

The days I spend with thee,  
dear friend,  
Are sunny days of pure delight  
That gleam like mile-stones on the way,  
And mark the course of time's  
swift flight.  
Their dawns are crimsoned with  
the flush  
Of happiness that is to be;  
Their twilights hold the vanished suns  
That ray the bright futurity.

The days I spend with thee, dear  
friend,  
Are free from turmoil, pain and  
care—  
A joy holds thrice its recompense  
If one we love its pleasure share.  
God made the world so beautiful,  
O'er-canopied by heaven's blue;  
And what if many hearts prove false  
If one remains forever true?



## God Bless Thee, Dear

God bless thee, dear! this  
Eastertide,  
Wherever thou may be;  
My thoughts go out across the miles  
In tenderness to thee.  
I trust the One Who rose to-day  
Will keep thee in His care,  
And flood thy life with happiness,  
And grant thine every prayer.

God bless thee, dear! — there are  
no words  
More eloquent than these  
Of friendship's crystal pledge of peace,  
That knows no bitter lees.  
Thy kindness and sympathy  
Have been a golden stair,  
That led me up ambition's slope  
And crowned me victor there.



## The Passing On

Tis right the springtime of the year  
Should claim Christ's passing on  
To that sweet Spirit-land of peace,  
That knows no setting sun.  
Tis right the flowers then should fill  
With perfume all the air;  
That bells throughout the world  
should ring  
Their melodies of prayer.

Tis right the soul should long to  
tread  
The path the Saviour trod,  
And feel the cooling breezes steal  
Across the clovered sod.  
The thrush will sing so pleasantly  
Upon its wild-thorn nest,  
A melody of hope fulfilled—  
A threnody of rest.



## The Aspen Tree

A spen tree, aspen tree, why do you  
quiver,  
And tremble and whisper so,  
On mountain and hillside, by roadway  
and river,  
When never a breeze doth blow?  
Why do you sigh as if you were  
weeping,  
Forsaken and unconsoled,  
When all of your kindred are happily  
sleeping  
Or waking to daylight's gold?

Far back in a time that is vague & olden  
As a pyramid covered with moss,  
My wood was axed till its sap dripped  
golden,  
And they fashioned me into a cross  
Whereon the flesh of a King was riven,  
Whilst loved ones stood weeping by;  
But I feel when the dead of the world  
are forgiven,  
I, too, shall be called on high.



## Predestination

It could not pass, it was to be,  
The grief in fair Gethsemane,  
The scourging and the mocking cries  
Ascending to the pitying skies,  
The crown of thorns and dripping blood  
That stained the cross of aspen wood—  
It could not pass, it was to be,  
The agony on Calvary!

It cannot pass, it is to be,  
Each life must know Gethsemane,  
And tread alone the narrow way  
That leads from darkness into day,  
And wear the crown of cruel thorns,  
And bear the cross at many morns—  
It cannot pass, it is to be,  
Each life must bleed on Calvary!

It will not pass, it is to be,  
The city by the sapphire sea,  
The lilyed wand that all will hold  
To ope the gates of jaspered gold,  
The greeting and the welcoming  
Of myriad angels on the wing—  
It will not pass, it is to be,  
God's kingdom after Calvary!



## Behold the Man!

**B**ehold the MAN!"—the world may  
well repeat;  
This truly was a man in word and  
deed—

In pity, wisdom, majesty and love,  
True attributes that make the perfect man.  
"Behold the MAN!" calls out a mystic  
voice,

Like bells that peal in cadences of prayer,  
And, lo! our restless hearts are filled with  
peace,  
And reigns eternal love forevermore.

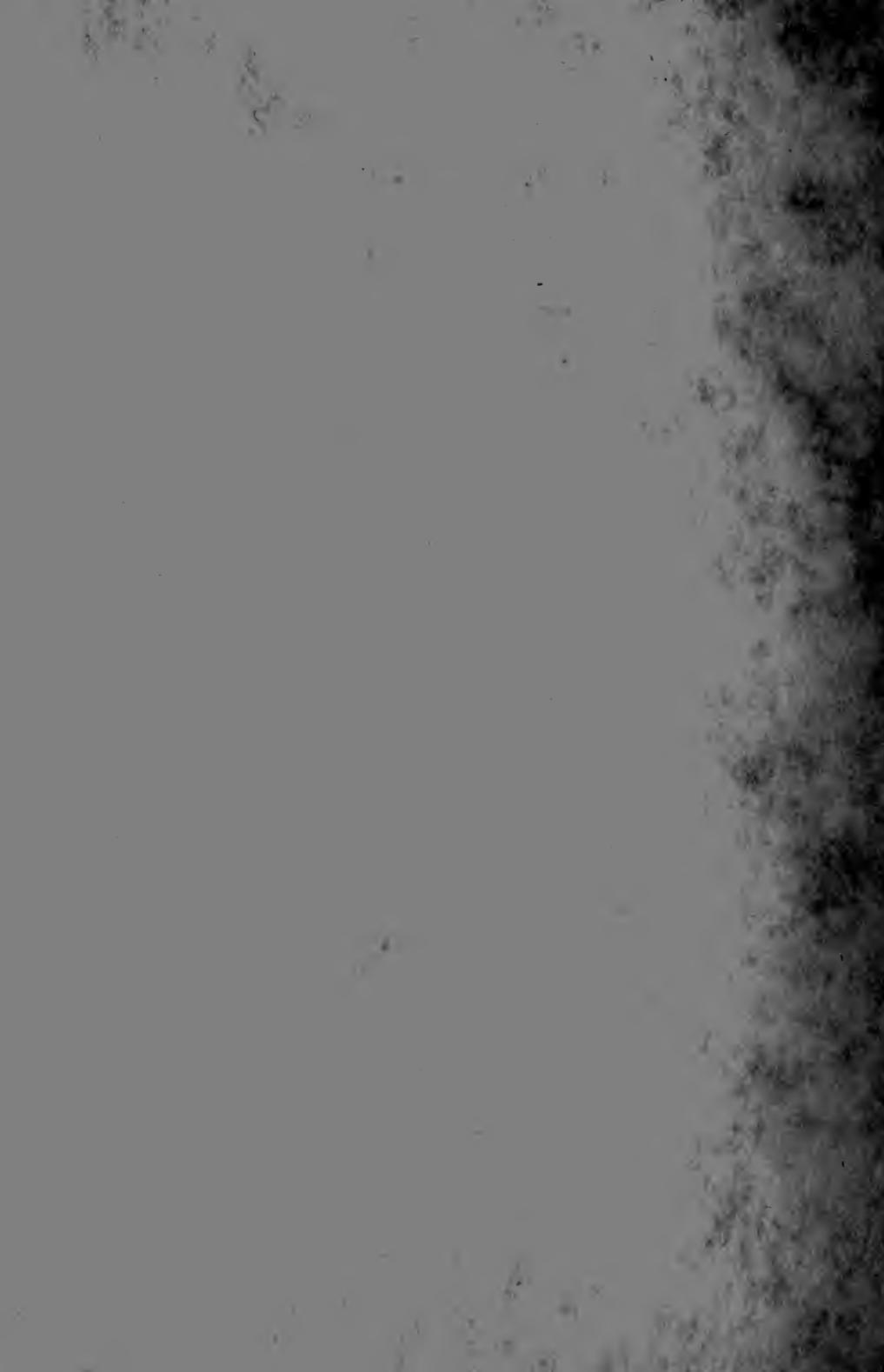
Each thorn which circles that pale, humid  
brow  
Bespeaks the mute reproach of suffering  
man;

Each tear which trembles in those yearning  
eyes

Has all the pity of a God Divine.  
No grief was greater than the grief He  
bore

No pain was sharper than the pain He felt;  
Yet fell those words like rain in desert  
lands:

"Father, forgive; they know not what  
they do!"



## The Assumption Lily

Lily bloom, lily bloom, shaped like  
a chalice,  
L Glowing with anthers of gold,  
White as the marble of temple or palace,  
Or leaves of forgiveness scrolled.—  
Why are you veiled with the mystery  
and glory  
Of moonbeams & sun-molded bars?  
Lily bloom, lily bloom, tell us your story,  
Wonderful, high as the stars.

I was brought by fairest angel of  
Heaven  
To Nazareth long ago,  
And unto beautiful Mary was given—  
An emblem of purity's snow.  
I lay on her breast when Calvary  
trembled  
At words of the dying Christ;  
I'll plead for the dead of the world  
assembled  
The day of judgment tryst.



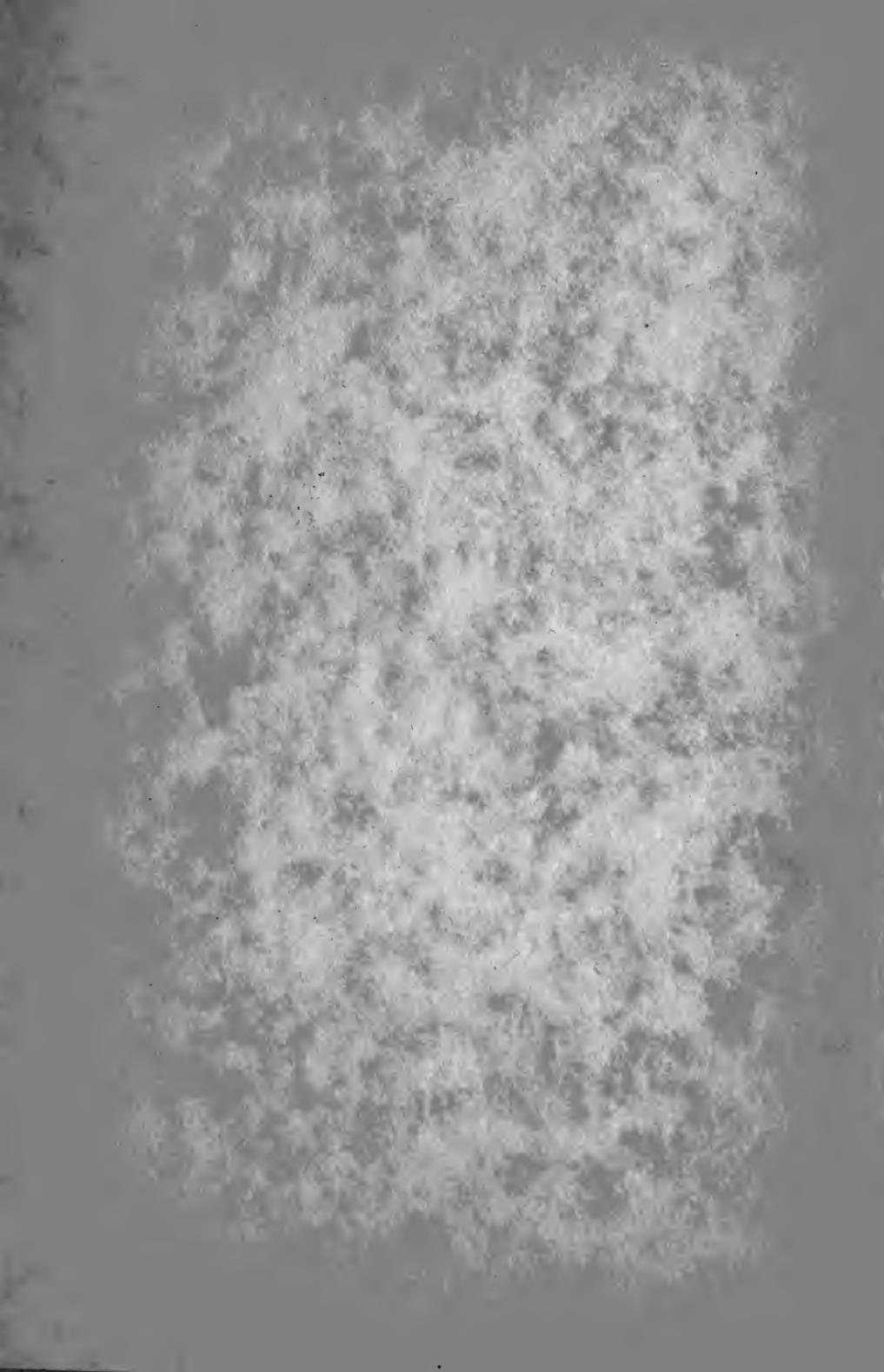
## Night and Morn

Limned in the afterglow  
Three crosses of aspen rise  
And bleeding & thorn-crowned  
The Prince of Forgiveness lies;  
And O the yearning love  
That burns in His dying eyes!

Over the dawn-flushed hills  
An angel is winging low,  
As up the hillside path  
The sorrowing faithful go;  
And by the riven tomb  
The angel waits in the glow.

“He Whom ye seek is gone!”  
The angel of Heaven says—  
“Gone in guise of the flesh,  
But thine in spirit always:  
He Whom ye seek ye'll find  
At the ending of earth's days!”





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